



Why Humboldt Park is irate **10**

Cheftestant's new sweet spot **36**

Cheers to the Best Bartender! **38**

BY JULIA BORCHERTS, FOR REDEYE | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

BIRDS OF PARADISE

2 Sparrows 533 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-234-2320
The Lincoln Park restaurant—named for birds that pull the mythological goddess of agriculture's chariot—continues its beverage dinner series with a five-course meal featuring halibut with blue crab and bison with red wine risotto, paired with organic wines from Mendocino County's Girasole Vineyards. 7 p.m. Friday. \$75.

DRINK

START YOUR ENGINES

Lottie's Pub
1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738

Oscar who? If you prefer checkered flags over red carpets, attend the Daytona 500 viewing party and watch the action live on 23 flatscreens and two projectors over \$60 Busch Light, Hamms and Coors banquet cases, \$3 beer cans and \$4 house whiskey and bourbon. 1 p.m. Sunday. No cover.



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DO

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU

People Lounge
1560 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-227-9339

Enter via a red carpet under movie premiere-style lights at this fancy-dress-optional Academy Awards viewing party that features \$3 champagne flutes, \$4 Absolut cocktails and \$7 specialty cocktails. Arrive early for select \$5 tapas (5-7 p.m.); stay late for a set by DJ Funky Couture, who also spins during commercials. 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday. No cover.

GETTY IMAGES

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

Hotel 71 71 E. Wacker Drive 773-271-5110

Don your red carpet best for "Vital Nights: And the Oscar Goes To ...," which includes appetizers, Svedka vodka cocktails and raffles for luxury prizes at this Vital Bridges benefit bash. There are "award predictions" and "best dressed" contests, but if the Academy picks your least favorite movies or you and another partygoer arrive in the same dress, you can console yourself with 360-degree city views. 5:30-10:30 p.m. Sunday. \$40. RSVP required: vitalbridges.org

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Mayor Emanuel at the Annoyance Theatre. The "[Bleep] You, I Love You, Goodbye" comedy show is extended through April 28.



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HOT POTAT

Good gravy! Iconic spud turns 60 this month

CNN

This month marks 60 years of spud-tastic memories for an iconic toy industry staple that remains a household name.

Mr. Potato Head hit the market in 1952 and has been inspiring imaginative play ever since. For many preschool-age children, ownership of a Mr. Potato Head represents a rite of passage as well as the passing down of a tradition from generation to generation.

Mr. Potato Head was the first toy to be advertised on television and remains one of Hasbro's most beloved characters.

More than 100 million

Mr. and Mrs. Potato

Head toys have

been sold to

date; more than

30 licensed Mr.

Potato Head characters

have been created; and there

are more than 350 Mr. Potato

Head parts and pieces available.

That's no small potatoes!

Not only is Mr. Potato Head celebrating his 60th birthday, but he and Mrs. Potato Head renewed their vows this year. Thankfully, neither got cold (removable, interchangeable) feet.

TATER TOTS: FUN FACTS ABOUT MR. POTATO HEAD

1952

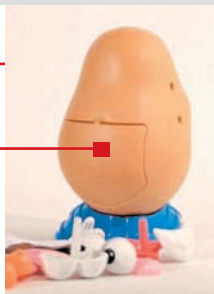
>> The first Mr. Potato Head cost 98 cents, consisting of parts only—Mom and Dad supplied the actual (real!) potato.



>> Mrs. Potato Head was introduced to the world one year later. The couple tied the knot on Valentine's Day **1953**.

1964

>> Hasbro began manufacturing Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head with hard plastic bodies that held the pieces—and has done so ever since—eliminating the need for real spuds.



>> Parts are stored in the Tater Tush compartment. (Yep, it's trademarked!)

>> Those plastic bodies doubled in size come **1974** and have remained roughly the same size ever since.



>> Mr. Potato Head got his AARP card in **2002**. **CNN**

Mr. Potato Head
BILL HOGAN/TRIBUNE



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THE SETUP: One of those random RedEye office debates we decided to share with the world.

Is haircut time conversation time?

YES

Mick Swasko

MSWASKO@TRIBUNE.COM
@MICKSWASKO



VS

NO

Jessica Cantarelli

JCANTARELLI@TRIBUNE.COM
@REDEYEJESSICA



With the exception of a stylist at Noonan's Hair Em—yes, that's really the name of my old college clipper place—who spent the better part of a cut persuading me I had thinning hair, I've never had a problem with barbershop small talk. In fact, I've gotten along quite well with everyone I've entrusted to hold shears inches from my eyebrow. What's wrong with a little socializing with a relative stranger while you're in the chair?

I personally believe if you're going to work in a profession that almost completely relies on interacting with people, then you should have some interpersonal skills. There's nothing worse than getting stuck in the chair with a bad conversationalist—worse yet, one who isn't even good at faking his or her interest in your weekend plans. I'd rather not talk at all. Silence does not make me uncomfortable.



What's the point of that? I'll take a crappy conversation over silent snipping any day, so long as we aren't discussing my imaginary receding hairline or the personality quirks of the stylist/barber's cats.

I don't need to play Groundhog Day and keep re-introducing myself to someone I know I've told my story to multiple times before. Nor do I need to spend 45 minutes repeating my weekend plans three times since I arrived because I keep getting asked. If they aren't listening, I'd rather not waste my breath.



Whoa, I spent the better part of the decade with the same barber in the 'burbs (I miss you, Mido), and from the first bowl-cut to the last frosted tip she sliced off, we had an amazing rapport. She even hung my picture on her mirror and gave me advice on some extremely important adolescent love conundrums. Maybe it's time to break things off instead of suffering in silence, Jess?

Listen, I haven't paid for five haircuts (sixth one is free!) to quit now. I go to get my mane tamed, not to tell my life story. What my gal and I have going works for us.



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FOLLOW THY TWEETS (#FF)

@redeyechicago has more than 46,000 followers on Twitter, but we're always being asked: Who are the best/funniest/weirdest Twitter accounts to follow? For Follow Friday, we'll give you a couple of ideas. And if you have anyone you think we should follow, let us know! JESSICA GALLIART, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY

@AlbertBrooks

Why you should follow: Brooks had some awesomely fake-bitter tweets when nominations were announced and he was dubbed as snubbed for his role in "Drive." His night-of-the-awards tweets should be a doozy.



SAMPLE TWEET

I got ROBBED. I don't mean the Oscars, I mean literally. My pants and shoes have been stolen."

@BillyCrystal

Why you should follow: James Franco tweeted pics and videos from backstage during his hosting gig last year—maybe Crystal will, too? And, yes, Billy Crystal is on Twitter and is kind of great at tweeting.



SAMPLE TWEET

Great news!
Hostings
Oscars counts
five hours
toward my
community
service!"



Billy
Crystal
GETTY
IMAGES

Oscars tip

Follow RedEye movie critic @MattPais and TV critic @ShowPatrol for updates throughout the show. RedEye also will live-posting on our Facebook page (facebook.com/theredeye) Sunday as our Oscars bingo predictions (Page 25) unfold.

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Tregg Duerson (right), son of Dave Duerson, discusses his family's lawsuit against the NFL on Thursday in Chicago. **ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE**

Former Bear's family sues over concussions

Reuters

The family of former Bears player Dave Duerson, who killed himself a year ago and was found to suffer a brain disease blamed on repeated concussions, filed suit Thursday against the league and helmet-maker Riddell, his lawyer said.

It joins a growing number of lawsuits filed by hundreds of former players who allege the league knew, or should have known, about the long-term damage from concussions and instead sent them back onto the field.

Several retired players claim to suffer from memory loss, chronic headaches and other health problems they blame on repeated concussions.

The suit, filed on behalf of Duerson's son Tregg in Cook County Circuit Court, accuses the NFL of "failing to prevent, diagnose and properly treat" Duerson's concussions in



Duerson

1988, 1990 and 1992, as well as other undiagnosed concussions he suffered during a 10-year career playing the safety position with the Bears and two other teams that ended in 1993.

The suit said Duerson was never warned that "playing through concussions could, and would, cause permanent brain damage."

Duerson had told friends he wanted his brain examined after his death, and they have said they believe that is why he shot himself in the chest at age 50 on Feb. 17, 2011.

Duerson's brain was examined post-mortem by the Sports Legacy Institute, a non-profit group dedicated to examining the concussion issue, and it was found to have

chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The disease is thought to be caused by repeated concussions and has been found in the brains of some 20 deceased players.

Helmet manufacturer Riddell, a unit of Easton Bell Sports Inc, is named as a co-defendant of Duerson's and several other lawsuits that allege the helmets did not adequately protect players from concussions and the company did not tell players they were at risk.

The NFL has responded by saying it followed the medical practices of the time and would contest the suits. The league also has taken several steps aimed at reducing concussion risks, including stiff fines for hits to the head deemed dangerous and stricter medical protocols before players can return to action after suffering concussions.

A spokesperson for Riddell its policy is not to comment on pending litigation.



**The Daleys
in December 2010**
TRIBUNE FILE

“It’s a whole different lifestyle with the death of my wife. Everything was organized, vacations and all that. ... But it happens to a lot of people in life, not just me.”

—Former Mayor Richard M. Daley, commenting Wednesday for the first time since the death of his wife, Maggie, on Thanksgiving

EXPRESS LINES

- » Mayor Emanuel on Thursday opened the door to compensation for businesses affected by security restrictions during the May G-8 and NATO summits in Chicago this spring.
- » A group of 50 workers who occupied a Goose Island window factory in 2008 have once again locked themselves inside the plant in a desperate move to save their jobs, a union representative said Thursday.
- » A cheerleading coach at an East Garfield Park high school was stabbed and seriously injured by a 16-year-old girl while trying to break up a fight outside the school, police said.
- » A small fire at the old Main Post Office over the weekend was caused by a passing or idling train that ignited built-up tar in a ventilation shaft, the Chicago Fire Department said.

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chicago



U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald discusses charges against Cook County Commissioner William Beavers during a news conference Thursday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse.
TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE

Charge: Commissioner skirted tax payments



Beavers

Chicago Tribune

Cook County Commissioner William Beavers was indicted Thursday on charges he failed to pay taxes on tens of thousands of dollars in campaign funds he used to pay

off personal expenses.

But the storied, tough-talking 77-year-old Democrat denied the charges and said he was indicted after he refused to wear a wire on fellow Cook County Commissioner John Daley. "I'm too old to be a stool pigeon," Beavers told the Tribune.

The Tribune reported in 2010 that federal prosecutors had subpoenaed Beavers' expense records and that Beavers acknowledged he used his \$1,200-a-month county expense allowance to augment his salary.

Beavers is accused in the indictment of not reporting as income thousands of dollars that he converted to personal use from his campaign accounts—including more than \$68,000 on one occasion—as well as from his county discretionary spending account.

Between 2006 and 2008, Beavers paid himself more than \$225,000 from three separate

campaign accounts and used at least a portion of that money for personal purposes, including gambling, the indictment alleges.

In 2006, he used more than \$68,000 from a campaign account to boost his city pension, and between 2006 and 2008 he used his \$1,200 monthly county contingency account for personal purposes without reporting any of the funds as income on his federal tax returns, according to the indictment.

Beavers said Thursday that all his taxes were paid and suggested the indictment is payback by federal prosecutors. Beavers contended he was notified by letter that he was under investigation regarding his taxes a week after he rebuffed the government request to wear a wire.

"They said, 'We don't want you. We want John Daley. We want you to wear a wire,'" Beavers said. He said he didn't know why Daley would be under investigation.

Daley denied any knowledge of a federal probe and accused Beavers of drawing him into the controversy to divert attention from his indictment.

"This thing today is about Bill Beavers. You've seen Bill Beavers and I interact at the County Board meetings. It's not so positive. So he's trying to switch the focus, and he's so far been pretty successful," Daley said.



"I'm too old to be a stool pigeon."

—Cook County Commissioner William Beavers, on Thursday's tax charges

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Melissa Duprey, a 27-year-old Humboldt Park resident, rallies with community members Thursday in front of TopsyCake bakery. A video posted on YouTube this week featured TopsyCake's owner suggesting the neighborhood is dangerous, angering residents and aldermen. **LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE**

Bakery owner: I'm sorry for offending Humboldt Park

By Leonor Vivanco

REDEYE

The owner of TopsyCake bakery apologized Thursday for remarks posted online that angered the Humboldt Park community.

Residents, community activists and aldermen rallied at noon Thursday at the bakery's Humboldt Park location demanding an apology from owner Naomi Levine for her comments in a CitySoles TV interview posted on YouTube this week in which she suggested the neighborhood was dangerous. Residents commented on various social media outlets that Levine's remarks were insensitive, offensive and disparaging to the community.

"While I do not expect that every single person that was offended will accept my apology, I would like everyone to know that your comments on social media were received and educated me as to the mistakes I have made, which guided me to issue this apology," Levine wrote in a statement posted Thursday afternoon on TopsyCake's Facebook page.

In the video, Levine said she chose the Bucktown location at 1944 N. Damen Ave. to open a second storefront where "nobody would be too scared." TopsyCake pastries still are baked in Humboldt Park.

In the video, which has since been pulled from the CitySoles website and its YouTube channel, Levine highlights a caramel slice

pastry she calls "crack" because "in Humboldt Park the cops would knock on the door and ask to taste the crack."

Ald. Roberto Maldonado (26th) said he was upset over the remarks in the video. "To me, that is uncalled for, for her to make those inflammatory comments that many of us can construe as racist, for a business person to come here and make a living for the last seven or eight years and now we're not good enough for her business," he said.

Her comments only perpetuate stereotypes the community has fought for years, he said.

At the protest, Ald. Proco "Joe" Moreno (1st) said, "To have comments like this that don't help move our community forward is not only just irritating, but it's disgusting."

The neighborhood, home to the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, does have its "social ills," but it's also a community that celebrates its culture and hosts festivals, said resident Juanita Garcia, 32, a volunteer at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center.

In her apology, Levine noted she's received threatening calls and admitted she failed to consider the implications of her words.

"Nearly every day since I opened the doors to my bakery, at least one customer would sample a product and tell me how it was 'like crack,'" she said.

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1 Toddler-size lobster to go free

The biggest lobster ever caught in Maine, a 27-pounder nicknamed "Rocky" with claws tough enough to snap a man's arm, will be released shortly after being trapped in a shrimp net last week, marine officials said. The 40-inch male crustacean is about the size of a 3-year-old human. **REUTERS PHOTO**

2 Obama apologizes for burning 'error'

Afghan rage over the burning of Qurans by NATO troops showed little signs of subsiding Thursday even after President Obama apologized for the "error." In a letter delivered to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Obama called the act "inadvertent."

3 U.N. points finger at Syrian officials

A U.N. report issued Thursday identifies Syrian commanders and high-ranking officials who may be responsible for "widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations" and apparent crimes against humanity.

4 Maryland Senate OKs gay marriage

The Maryland Senate voted Thursday evening to legalize same-sex marriage. Gov. Martin O'Malley has pledged to sign the bill into law.

5 Customers leaving T-Mobile

T-Mobile, the only national carrier that doesn't sell the iPhone, lost 706,000 customers under contract during the last three months of 2011, the struggling carrier announced Thursday. It was the only national carrier to lose customers last quarter.

6 Sears plans store spinoffs

Sears Holdings said it plans to spin off its small-format hometown dealer stores and outlets and sell 11 stores to raise cash and shore up its money-losing retail business.

7 die in midair crash

7 Seven Marines were killed in the midair collision of two military helicopters along the Arizona-California border, officials said Thursday.

The crash occurred during routine training operations Wednesday night, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

The collision, which occurred near the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, involved an AH-1W "Super Cobra" attack helicopter and a UH-1Y "Huey" utility chopper.

The aircraft were part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and based in Camp Pendleton in California.

Six of the Marines killed in the crash were

from Camp Pendleton, and one was from Yuma, Ariz., the Marine Corps said.

Authorities were investigating the collision. "We won't know exactly what happened until the investigation is complete, and we can't make any assumptions right now," said 1st Lt. Maureen Dooley, a Marine Corps spokeswoman.

The Marines onboard were preparing for deployment to Afghanistan, she said.

"We have aircraft going out to Yuma training ranges on a weekly basis, and they go out there primarily because the aircraft mimics what they will see in Afghanistan," Dooley said.

Authorities did not plan to release the names

DID YOU KNOW?

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is home to about 4,000 active duty Marines and sailors. It supports 80 percent of the Marine Corps air-to-ground aviation training and covers five square miles in southeastern Yuma.



8 Children play Thursday during a flood near their house in Jakarta, Indonesia. Heavy rain caused flooding in some parts of the capital. **REUTERS**

Police investigate Chris Brown report

9 Miami officials on Thursday said they are investigating Chris Brown, who is on probation for assaulting ex-girlfriend Rihanna, following reports that he may have been involved in the theft of a mobile phone.

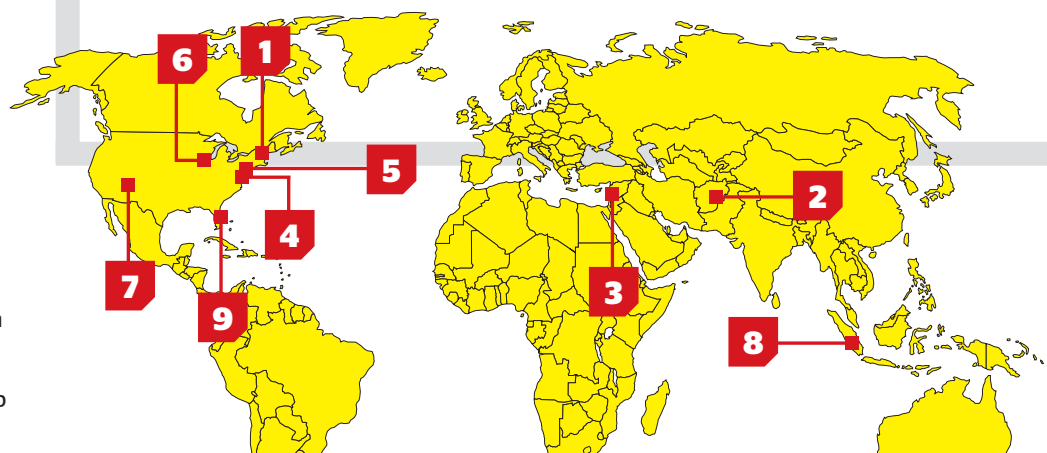
TMZ.com reported that a 24-year-old woman filed a police report in Miami Beach on Sunday for "robbery by snatching" and that Brown was the culprit.

The TMZ report said the woman tried to take pictures of the singer as he was leaving a nightclub and Brown took her iPhone and drove away.

The Florida state attorney in Miami-Dade County, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, issued a statement late Thursday.

"My prosecutors are currently speaking with witnesses and reviewing all of the materials supplied by Miami Beach Police. Only after these reviews have been completed would any type of action be considered or taken," Rundle said in the statement.

If arrested again, Brown risks being jailed for probation violation.



THE DIGIT

7 YEARS Plastic surgery procedures took an average of seven years off patients' appearance, with more extensive facial surgeries turning the clock back even further, researchers said in the Archives of Facial Plastic Surgery.

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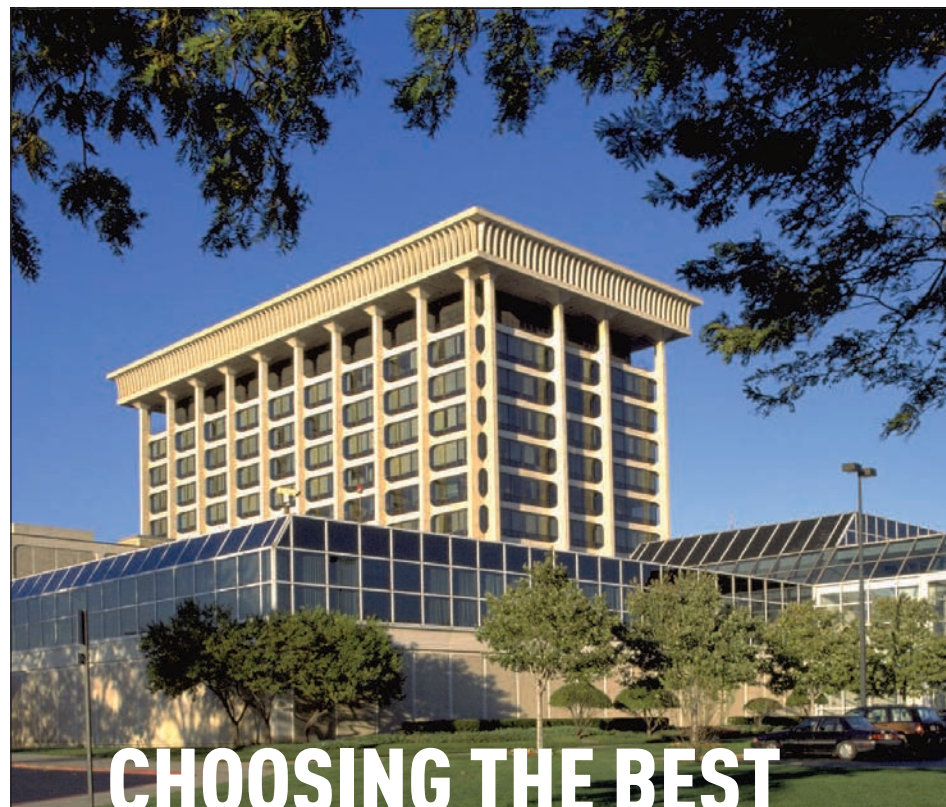
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Montador misses 8th straight

Chicago Tribune

Lost in the shuffle of the Blackhawks' winning and losing streaks, car crashes, trade rumors and other injuries has been Steve Montador's absence from the lineup.

The defenseman missed his eighth consecutive game with an upper-body injury when the Hawks faced Dallas on Thursday night at the United Center. Montador hasn't played since logging 9 minutes, 5 seconds Feb. 7 against the Avalanche in Denver, and coach Joel Quenneville didn't rule out the veteran being lost for the season.

"You never know," Quenneville said. "It would be nice to give you a timeline on it, but we don't have the precise-looking forecast. ... He's starting to feel better. Hopefully it's not too long."

Montador has five goals and nine assists along with a plus-4 rating in 51 games this season.

The Hawks' blue line received a boost Thursday, however, with the return of Niklas Hjalmarsson after a seven-game absence because of an upper-body injury.

"It's good to have him back," Quenneville said. "He's useful in a lot of ways. He defends properly and his positioning is strong for us. He blocks shots and makes simple plays. It's good to have that reliability back."

Manny Pacquiao

What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas if it is documented in a police report. Pacquiao learned that in May when news of his friendly fire accident made headlines. The boxer's SUV was rear-ended at low speed by one of his security vehicles. He was "a little shaken up" but not injured.

Carlos Zambrano

In October 2010, Big Z was leaving Wrigley Field for the year when he was involved in an accident. Details are fuzzy, but apparently his vehicle suffered significant damage.

Tom Brady

Right before the NFL season began in September 2010, the man with the golden arm crashed in Boston. He was unhurt and practiced later that day. Nothing can keep this guy down. Except the N.Y. Giants, of course.

Dennis Rodman

The crazy-hair man often flipped out during his NBA playing career, but in August 2010 the former Bulls star flipped his SUV in South Florida. His only injury was a scratched finger. "I'm still living, brother," Rodman told his agent. "They can't get rid of me."

Carlos Marmol

Just days after the Cubs were ousted from the NL Division Series in October 2008, the Cubs' flame-throwing pitcher was involved in an accident in the Dominican Republic. He lacerated his forehead, requiring seven stitches, but was otherwise OK. Except for that playoff failure, that is.

Lance Briggs

The Bears line-backer crashed his Lamborghini on the Edens in August 2007 and didn't stick around to talk about it. He was fined \$485 for leaving the scene of a property damage accident. The car still isn't speaking to Briggs.

Jonathan Toews joins the athletes-crashing-cars club

RedEye

Athletes can pull off amazing moves in their respective sports. However, sometimes that skill doesn't carry over to their everyday lives.

Take driving, for example. There is no shortage of stories of sports figures making less-than-smooth moves in their vehicles of choice.

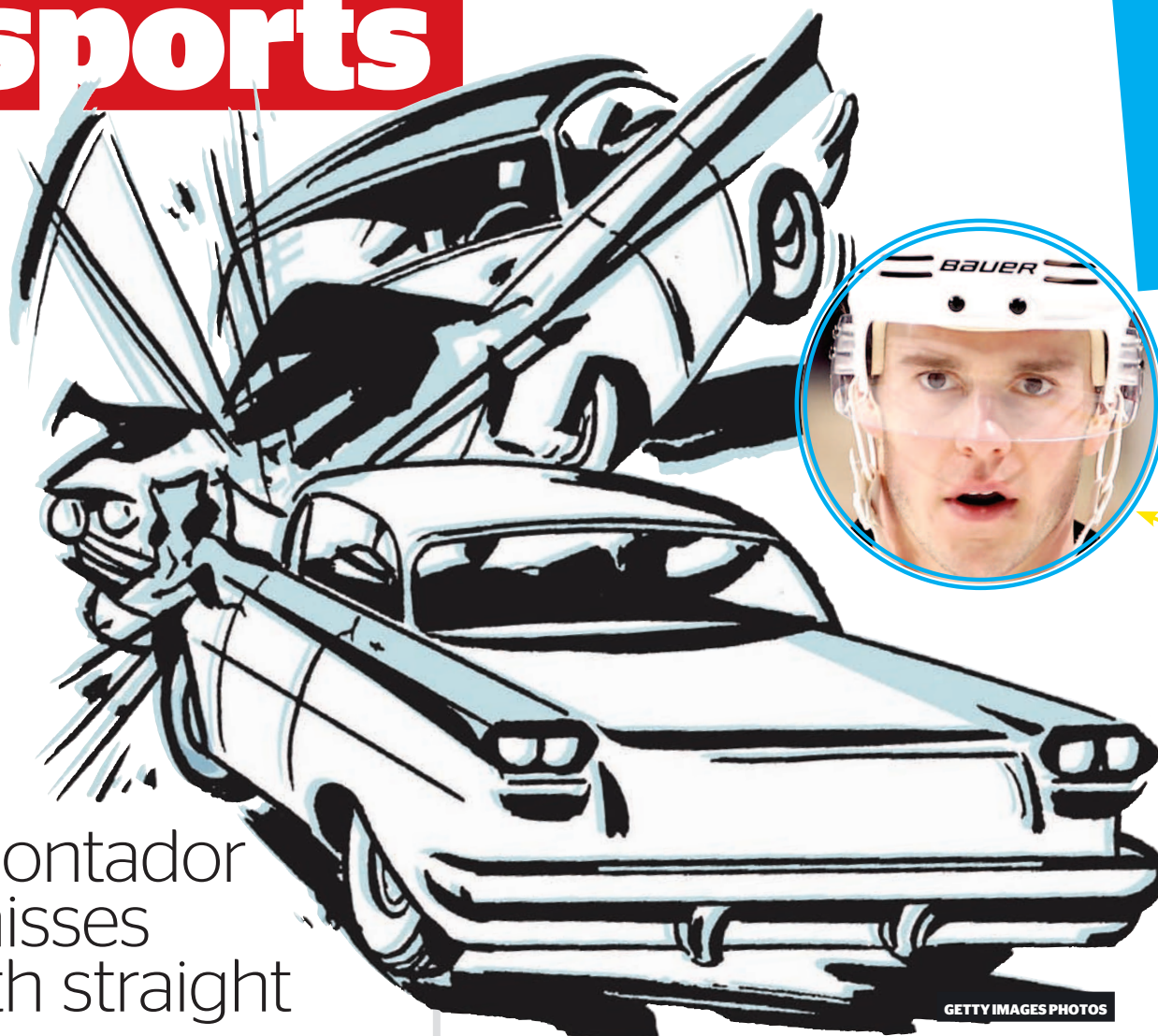
Blackhawks captain **Jonathan Toews** can add himself to that list.

About 10 a.m. Thursday, Toews crashed his car into an "L" support beam at Lake Street and Garvey Court, according to a police report. His car sustained front-end damage, but he was not hurt.

"It's nothing serious at all," Toews told the Tribune. "I'm good."

He's good, but not good enough to play. He sat out Thursday's 3-1 loss to Dallas at the United Center with an upper-body injury not related to his accident.

These athletes also were not severely injured in their accidents.



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1 How will NBA All-Stars react to Tom Thibodeau's coaching?

Sternly, yet politely, request that he please not do that.

Well. They're in the Greatest Plays on Earth.

I expect he'll run into a language barrier the first time he says "defense."

Shrieks of pain and terror. And that's just LeBron.

"Oh man, more jumping jacks? What is this, 1974?" Then, vomiting.

2 What "upper-body injury" does Jonathan Toews have?

If it's a concussion as rumored, then this isn't a joking matter.

Cold shoulder.

It's chest a rumor. Neck's question.

He made his serious face so much, it finally froze. Mom was right!

We think it's a lip but we can't confirm.

3 What's your alternative to the White Sox's "Appreciate the Game" slogan?

"Come For The Baseball, Stay For The Food" or "Kenny Williams Slept Here."

"All outs."

"Game recognize Lame."

"Remember 2005, please."

In honor of Ozzie's departure, "Appreciate the peace and quiet."

4 Along with a bunting tournament, what other tournaments should the Cubs have?

Pin The Tail On The Cardinal tourney.

March badness.

There's this one called the World Series they might want to look into.

Home Run Inn Derby: snarf down an entire pizza while running the bases.

Woo-woo tourney. Wrigley pub crawl tourney. Invent another statue tourney. Endless.

5 Describe the state of college basketball in Illinois.

Casually sucky.

The teams are involved in worse court cases than Blagojevich.

Not. Good. That Allstate Mayhem guy should shoot his next commercial in Champaign.

North Dakota-esque.

State of confusion rapidly descending into a state of anxiety.

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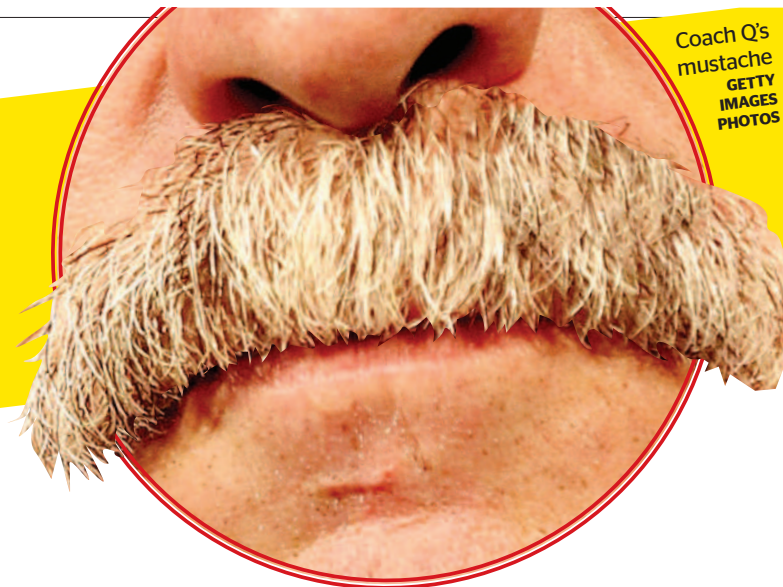
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The bag & the 'stache

RedEye scores some face time with Coach Q's famous feature



Coach Q's mustache
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



sacked again

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Here it is, the long awaited RedEye exclusive interview with Coach Q's Mustache (@coachqsmustache).

Jonathan Toews is still sidelined, you worried?

We've had newborn babies with more hair on their faces than Johnny had in the 2010 playoffs, but we still love him ... always concerned when there's an upper-body injury ... my first instinct was

"oh no, not the lip again," but he'll be OK.

What's your wish list at trade deadline?

Besides you losing the bag on your head? We won a Cup already! What, is that thing welded on? All I know is I'm not going anywhere.

Stan Bowman's forehead told me that.

Mike Ditka still owns this town, and his mustache never had a Twitter account. Is this a bit much?

His mustache emails me sometimes, but it's always a coupon for wine. Also, who emails anymore?

Playoff beards. Too early?

I like to tell everyone it's never too early to practice their beards. Mullets? No. This isn't some a-ha cover band. Some ladies don't shave their legs during the playoffs. They call that "pulling a Pronger." I don't endorse it, but I like the phrase.

You once were a Windsor Spitfire (1975-78). Name me one other famous alum.

Trick question. NHL mustache, grown and raised.

Correct. Would also have accepted

Don Cherry.

Cherry's mustache and beard? It lisps. True story. Also, it's hard for Coach [Q] when people come talk to me and leave him out of the conversation, so be polite and include him.

You also were the head coach of the St. John's (Newfoundland) Maple Leafs. Was that hard without electricity and plumbing?

I was fine with it. I felt at home. All those Newfie dogs, it

was like having a bunch of cousins. I was the little guy. One of them taught me to swim.

Why does coach keep switching the line combos?

Line changes ... I don't know. I always get asked that.

That and neckties. I'll say it once: I don't pick the neckties, I do pick the socks. As for the lines, I keep telling him to cool it. But if you ever see him covering his mouth, he's telling me "Shut it. You're just along for the ride."

Also, question for you. Is there a mustache under that bag?

Yes there is. Many think it's a tribute to Tom Selleck when in fact it's a tribute to Wyatt Earp. Anyway, I'll close with this. You won four straight after losing nine in a row. What's changed?

One thing and one thing only. Look closely and compare before and after photos of Coach Q. See it? Subtle change in shades? Before the Rangers game, Coach flipped me over. And I've never looked back.

Well played, 'stache. No play for the mustache in gray. Thanks for joining and best of luck down the stretch.

Grow on Bag Boy ... grow on.

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Tebow goes Hollywood

If you were wondering what the next step in Tebowmania might be, wonder no more. Denver Broncos quarterback

Tim Tebow has signed with talent agency William Morris Endeavor, the agency confirmed to The Hollywood Reporter. We cannot wait for the Tebow reality dating show.

THE MOUTHWATCH
I hope to meet him when I come to New York."

—Tennis star **Roger Federer** on N.Y. Knicks guard Jeremy Lin

They want the Manning

Will Casino and Robert Hoffman really want quarterback Peyton Manning to sign with the Miami Dolphins. So much so that they've started **manningtomiami.com** and have a billboard emblazoned with the website's address in Fort Lauderdale. "It's something we thought people would get behind," Casino said. "Think about all the attention LeBron James got when he made the move to Miami. Peyton is on that same level." True, but Peyton isn't a jerk.

Piniella says yes to the Yankees

Sweet Lou is going back to New York—as a contributor to the N.Y. Yankees' YES Network. Piniella managed the Cubs before retiring in 2010. "I am going to stay retired," Piniella said. "Being part of the Yankees organization is very special to me." Just imagine him trying to pronounce Dellin Betances' name.

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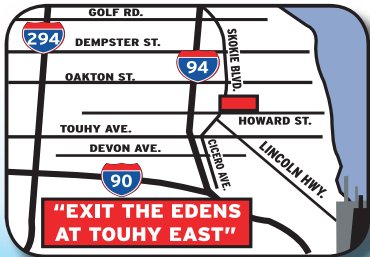
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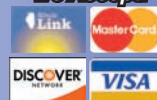
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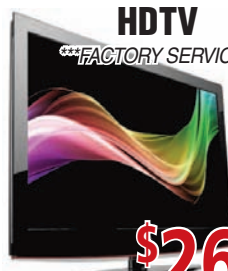


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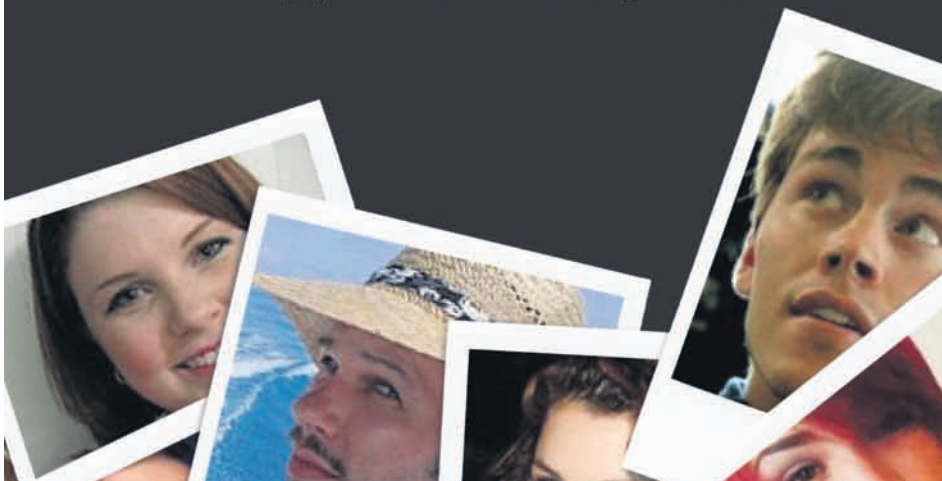
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dating

Five ways to ace the first few seconds

Ah, the first approach. We all dread it, and yet there is no way around it. People make up their minds about each other within seconds, so it's important to make an impression. Luckily, in the first five seconds you don't have to make a person decide to date you or marry you or have children with you or be buried next to you. (Stop thinking of death!) You only have to make them decide to keep talking to you. Here's how to make the most out of those vital first five seconds:

1 Don't overthink it

A little perspective goes a long way. You're not curing cancer, you're not splitting the atom, you're just starting a conversation. What you say doesn't matter as much as how you say it and that you don't look like a complete lunatic. You're not a lunatic (most likely)—you're a normal person worthy of dialogue with others. Keep it uncomplicated. I was once at a party where a guy came up to me and said, "Hi, I'm Mark, what's your name?" And we talked the rest of the night. It was just that simple.

2 Don't use a cheesy line

Unless you are brimming with confidence and the line is so awesomely good (or bad-good) that you are prepared to handle any consequences, just don't do it. "I've got Skittles in my mouth, wanna taste the rainbow?" is just completely stupid. A certain kind of guy, in a certain environment, could pull that off, I'm sure. But don't be that guy. You're more creative and smarter than that guy.

3 Start off simple

Don't bring up topics that are too deep, personal or polarizing in the first five seconds. If you are at a party by the dip bowl, you can say, "This dip is amazing! Do you know who made it?" That's pretty neutral. Don't say, "My brother, who died defending this country against Arabs, loved dip but was against abortion so to honor his memory, I'm burning down a clinic tomorrow. Would you care to join me?" There are very few instances where that is an acceptable thing to say to someone upon making first contact.

4 Be confident

Don't admit you're nervous or "bad at this." That's lame. "Hi, I'm really nervous. I'm so



bad at this. Um ... how are you?" is just bizarre. It puts the other person in a position where they have to comfort you and then feel like a jerk for not wanting to talk to a wuss. Just leave that part out.

5 If you get rejected, be graceful and move on

No one likes rejection and it stings, but if it happens and you get completely snubbed, don't shout, "BITCH!" and run from the party crying. Just move on. Not everyone is going to be as fabulous as you are. It's their loss. Relax, keep smiling, give it a minute and try again.

Yes, it's awkward and uncomfortable at first, but like anything else, with practice, it becomes a lot easier. You can say almost anything as long as it's something. A simple "Hi," often is the best approach around. We're all in this together. Good luck out there.

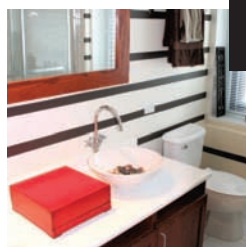
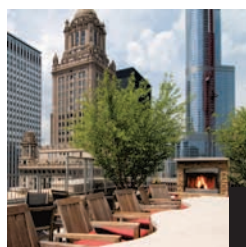
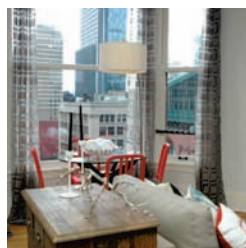
... go on a brewery tour at Half Acre and then get some German food and beverages.
—Jetzt / 33 / Chicago



... settle the Beatles vs. Stones argument over delicious whiskey.
—HowShep / 28 / Chicago

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'The Artist' is nominated for multiple Oscars, including best picture, best actor, best supporting actress and best director.

WHO WILL WIN THE OSCARS?

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

The Muppets won't perform at Sunday's Oscars. The snubbed "Drive" won't be picking up any awards. But one of the most awful, insulting movies of 2011 has been nominated for best picture.

That's a triple. Freaking. Whammy.

So I'm thrilled to turn the frown upside down and say that "The Artist," the only great movie nominated for best picture, will take home several of the night's biggest awards. With that, let's check in on the front-runner, the next-strongest competitor and more for the big-ticket categories. Not that you have money on them, right? MPAIS@TRIBUNE.COM | @MATTPAIS



BEST PICTURE

Front-runner: "The Artist." The crowd-pleaser just screams Oscar despite, you know, being silent, black-and-white and featuring a lot of French people.



Competitor: "Hugo." For voters who like their cinematic nostalgia even more academic and direct.

Really?! "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close." Voters obviously confused their ballots for a list of the worst movies of the year.

Snub: "Drive." Will be remembered as more of a classic than any of the nominees.

The pick and my vote: "The Artist"

Also nominated: "The Descendants," "The Help," "Midnight in Paris," "Moneyball," "The Tree of Life," "War Horse"

BEST ACTOR

Front-runner: Jean Dujardin, "The Artist." Deserves the praise for a brilliant silent performance and a face made for the role.



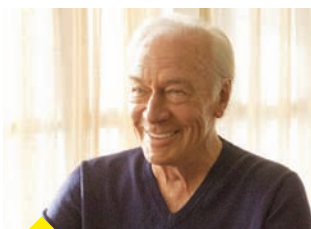
Competitor: George Clooney, "The Descendants." He's very good, but love for the movie hasn't really lingered. Maybe because it's just OK.

Really?! Demian Bichir, "A Better Life." A good performance, yes, but not nomination-worthy. The movie made no impact upon its release.

Snub: Michael Fassbender, "Shame." Simply the year's best performance. Having nothing to do with the performance by his junk.

The pick and my vote: Dujardin
Also nominated: Brad Pitt, "Moneyball"; Gary Oldman, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



Front-runner: Christopher Plummer, "Beginners." He's pretty much won every pre-Oscar award.

Competitor: Max Von Sydow, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close." Apparently got a huge ovation at the Oscar luncheon. Maybe people were just clapping because food was being served.

Really?! Jonah Hill, "Moneyball." He's fine in the movie, which wouldn't suffer much without him.

Snub: Albert Brooks, "Drive." Scarier than you ever knew he could be.

The pick: Plummer

My vote: Nick Nolte, "Warrior." He has experience as a hard-ass, but in "Warrior" he takes it to a different level.

Also nominated: Kenneth Branagh, "My Week with Marilyn"

BEST ACTRESS

Front-runner: Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady." Just because she's Meryl Streep, not because it's more than a good impression of Margaret Thatcher.

Competitor: Viola Davis, "The Help." The lead performance of an acting showcase.

Really?! Glenn Close, "Albert Nobbs." A performance that goes nowhere in a movie that convinces you for about three seconds.

Snub: Kirsten Dunst, "Melancholia." Really. Her career-best work.



The pick: Davis. I don't think people will want Streep to win for such a mediocre movie. But it's close.

My vote: Rooney Mara, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." The category's biggest, most useful transformation.

Also nominated: Michelle Williams, "My Week with Marilyn"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS



Front-runner: Octavia Spencer, "The Help." Wouldn't be upset if she wins.

Competitor: Berenice Bejo, "The Artist." Perhaps "The Artist" will win everything for which it is nominated?

Really?! Janet McTeer, "Albert Nobbs." She's better than Close, but still.

Snub: Shailene Woodley, "The Descendants," who would have been my choice to win.

The pick: Spencer

My vote: Bejo
Also nominated: Melissa McCarthy, "Bridesmaids"

GOING FOR GOLD

The ballots are counted. The little gold men have been shined. And the stars' bikini lines have been waxed (you can never be too prepared). Now all that's left is waiting for the Academy Awards ... and watching. Clip and save our Oscars prediction bingo to see how accurately we guessed the madness that'll go down. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | [@REDEYEDANA](https://twitter.com/REDEYEDANA)

O S C A R

Billy Crystal tap dances	The horse from "War Horse" on the red carpet	Meryl Streep gets handsy on the red carpet	Muppets stage-crash to perform their nominated song	Rebecca Black sighting
Brad and Angelina scowl	George Clooney pokes fun at Brad Pitt	Glaring omission from the "In Memoriam" montage	Tilda Swinton weirds it up in the wardrobe department	Signs for Uggie the dog along the red carpet
Gold gowns	Nick Nolte wears a weird hat		Shailene Woodley's smokin' dress makes her this year's Jennifer Lawrence	Four acceptance speeches cut off by music
Almost-too-low backless gowns	"Bridesmaids" presenters steal the show	Jonah Hill looks for a sandwich	Somebody mispronounces "Jean Dujardin"	Christina Hendricks' out-of-control cleavage
Kristen Wiig's ribcage tattoo	Miss Piggy hi-yahs someone	Will Ferrell sports a plaid suit	Michael Fassbender streaks. We warned you.	Everyone mispronounces "Michel Hazavanicius"

RECTOR

Director: Michel Hazavanicius, "The Artist." Executed the film perfectly.



Editor: Martin Scorsese, "Hugo." Deserves the nomination for a win.

Terrence Malick, "The Tree of Life." I know, most people think it's a masterpiece. I do not agree. It's a mess. Von Trier, "Melancholia." He should be awarded as a performer as a filmmaker. He's never delivered a spectacle.

and my vote: Michel Hazavanicius. Nominated: Peter Dinklage, "The Way, Way Back." Woody from "Midnight in Paris"

BEST/WORST

OF JENNIFER ANISTON

"Wanderlust," opening Friday, is nowhere close to being a good movie, but where does it fall in the pantheon of Jennifer Aniston comedies? Here are the highs and the lows of Jen's film career. MCT

THE BEST



Office Space

1999

Work sucks, but Aniston showed us the true meaning of "flair" in this cult hit about an office worker (Ron Livingston) bucking the system.



The Break-Up

2006

Jen and Vince Vaughn play a couple feuding over a luxury condo after a split. Could be worse. At least her dog didn't die like in "Marley & Me."



Friends With Money

2006

A woman who quits her job (Aniston, of course) frets about fitting in with her upper-middle-class friends. Nicole Holofcener's film about women and friendship is a cut above the traditional comedy, and light-years beyond.



THE WORST



Along Came Polly

2004

Aniston plays a free spirit who re-enters the life of a straight-laced guy (Ben Stiller)—and gives him drastic gastrointestinal distress. Kind of how you feel after watching this movie.



Rumor Has It

2005

Falling for and sleeping with an older guy (Kevin Costner) who might be your dad? Yeah. That's grosser than diarrhea.



Just Go With It

2011

Aniston pretends to be Adam Sandler's soon-to-be ex in order to cover up a lie. Here's the truth: Not even Meryl Streep could've made this one bearable.

THE ROAD TO GEORGE CLOONEY

Oscar favorite George Clooney ("The Descendants") used his starring role as Dr. Doug Ross on "ER" as a springboard to his successful movie career. But before "ER," Clooney's TV resume was rather unimpressive. MCT

E/R 1984-85
Yes, this really was the title of a show set in a Chicago hospital's emergency room, and yes, Clooney played a doctor. But it wasn't a drama or a hit.

The Facts of Life

1985-86

In his one season on the long-running sitcom,

Clooney played George, a carpenter who helped Mrs. Garrett (Charlotte Rae) rebuild her burned-down gourmet food shop.

Sunset Beat

1990

He was one of a trio of motorcycle-riding undercover L.A. cops. It lasted a mere two episodes.

Baby Talk

1991-92

In this sitcom inspired by the movie "Look Who's Talking," Clooney had a supporting role as a construction worker who was renovating the Manhattan loft of a single mom (Julia Duffy). The sitcom's gimmick: her baby's thoughts were in an adult voice.

Bodies of Evidence

1992-93

Returning again to play a big-city cop, this time as a detective who got too emotionally involved in his cases.



You can look, but you can't learn



!!! Crazyhorse
Not rated

Any performance involving choreography requires practice, whether the bodies shaking it have tops on or not.

So celebrated documentarian Frederick Wiseman—whose photo at imdb.com doesn't really make you want to see his take on exotic dancers—isn't tapping into anything profound by featuring rehearsal scenes at Crazy Horse, the famous Paris nightclub where naked women perform sensual, elegant routines to artists such as Antony, not Def Leppard. The girls onstage and the directors off stage put in a lot of work to make the show as good as possible, but debates about technicians vs. stage managers and how strongly to tilt one's buttocks don't exactly count as revelatory. Mr. Wiseman, who are these women who choose to perform at

Crazy Horse? Have they specifically chosen this club over any other place where you can dance naked, and what enjoyment or struggles result? A creepy employee claims that Crazy Horse represents the pinnacle of beauty, but, sorry, you saw more beautiful faces walking the down the street earlier today.

A delicate dance to a dreamy version of "Toxic" (not sung by Britney) hauntingly encapsulates what Crazy Horse is about. But in more than two hours, Wiseman should teach us the history and the current personalities behind the club, not just save us the airfare of going there.



A scene from 'Crazyhorse'

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

Not exactly lustworthy

!!! Wanderlust
R

Foolproof movie idea: Paul Rudd stands in front of a mirror and improvises for 90 minutes. Admit it. You would see that movie. You would buy the DVD. You would watch it when you were feeling lousy, and it would cheer you up.

The minute or so of "Wanderlust" when George (Rudd) tries to give his reflection—with permission from his wife, Linda (Jennifer Aniston), mind you—the confidence to sleep with a very beautiful, very interested woman (Malin Akerman) are the film's most deliriously hysterical, vulnerable

moments. George gets pretty creepy about it as Rudd contorts his face and voice. The world's most likable guy is overtaken by a man whose sleaziness is redeemed

only by his total doofusness.

George finds himself in this potential free-love situation when he and Linda shack up in a northern Georgia commune, after sudden unemployment forces them to leave behind their tiny New York condo. George's gigantic d-bag of a brother, Rick (co-writer Ken Marino), motivates them to choose an alternative lifestyle in the country over Rick's big, jackass-inhabited house in Atlanta.

At the commune, George doesn't need a new job and Linda doesn't need to finally settle on a career path (shockingly HBO does not pick up her "An Inconvenient Truth"-meets-"March of the Penguins" documentary in which penguins have testicular cancer). They can skinny dip and make wine with a nudist (Joe Lo Truglio) and, uh, go to the bathroom in the open, since these people don't believe in doors.

Aside from misleading viewers about the ease of playing the didgeridoo, the inconsistent "Wanderlust" is totally harmless, often feeling reminiscent of last year's Rudd hippie comedy, "Our Idiot Brother." Certain patches pass by without laughs; other big chunks will have you erupting. So rank it below "Wet Hot American Summer" and "Role Models" but above "The Ten" in director/co-writer David Wain's filmography, which puts it above an awfully high percentage of comedies by other people.



Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston in 'Wanderlust'

EVEN FASTER-PAISED

!!! Declaration of War
Not a war movie.

!!! In Darkness
Moving Oscar nom.

!!! Rampart
Woody Harrelson's great.

!!! This Means War
Underrated. Still not that good.

!!! The Secret World of Arrietty
Pretty. And pretty boring.



A Navy SEAL is engaged in a personnel recovery mission in "Act of Valor."

SEALs deserve better

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

"Act of Valor" began as a small recruiting film. Five years and a script from one of the writers of "300" later, that's still all it is.

I definitely don't understand how

the Navy thought the best way to showcase its members' bravery was to let active duty SEALs film a fictional, non-documentary story that makes real war look like a generic action flick. That is, if generic action movies featured real-life Navy soldiers doing a stiff job of playing themselves—with supporting turns by Nestor Serrano (recognizable from practically every TV show ever) and the woman who played "Clarise, Island Girl" in "Captain Ron." Sayonara, realism.

"Based on real acts of valor," "Valor" focuses on SEALs as they seek to rescue a CIA agent and thwart a terrorist operation. This provides numerous opportunities for them to leap out of planes and make canned statements such as,

Act of Valor
R

"This thing is way bigger than we thought it was." These soldiers deserve all the respect in the world, not slow-motion explosions and dialogue more likely to inspire groan-laugh than admiration. (Highlight: "He pulled a Roman Polanski on my ass and disappeared.")

Why not just let filmmakers immerse themselves into everyday operations and capture the courage and uncertainty as it happens, like the Oscar-nominated doc "Restrepo"? Or let a more talented writer and director (and real actors) bottle heroism, fear and urgency, à la "The Hurt Locker"?

The offensively artificial "Act of Valor" leaves no room for mistakes or a sense of clarity and truth. Instead, it's barely drawn characters and action sequences, such as when a SEAL catches a dead terrorist as he falls into the water so the splash won't alert other enemies. Eat your heart out, Van Damme.

Sometimes 'Thin Ice' is more solid

Thin Ice
R

Call me a sucker, but "Thin Ice" played me like a violin.

In fact, a violin holds together a situation that seems like a retread through minor indie territory covered recently by "Cedar Rapids" and "Win Win." That is, until things spin toward "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead" and writers Jill (who also directed) and Karen Sprecher twist toward something clever, if a little strained.

Wisconsin insurance agent Mickey Prohaska (Greg Kinnear) looks like a nice Midwestern man, but he's always selling what he knows people shouldn't be buying. Mickey

gets in over his head when a simple attempt to establish a policy for an elderly man (Alan Arkin) turns into an unlikely, unwanted partnership with a locksmith (Billy Crudup) who kills the old man's friend. Soon, Mickey's digging through quicksand as one desperate move creates the need for another.

It would be wrong to give more plot information, and nothing needs to be said about disposable scenes between Mickey and his soon-to-be ex-wife (Lea Thompson). With a strong whiff of "Fargo" that ultimately doesn't diminish the sinister entertainment value, "Thin Ice" challenges how dark a dark comedy needs to be to avoid the feeling that the plot is dripping.

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Tyler Perry leaves the wig at home

Reuters

"Good Deeds" is Tyler Perry's 12th movie, but it's the first in which the actor-director stars as the central character in a film not based on Madea, the foul-mouthed grandmother he is best known for playing. In "Good Deeds," which opens Friday, the 42-year-old portrays Wesley Deeds, a successful CEO controlled by his domineering mother until an unexpected friendship inspires him to rebel. Perry talked about how he felt exposed playing Deeds and his evolution as an actor.

You've said playing the role of Wesley Deeds was a scary experience. How so?

I'm used to having a costume. I'm used to having something to hide behind. This is the first time I feel like a lot of my life is on the screen. People don't really know a whole lot about me on purpose because I live my life very privately, but Wesley Deeds is extremely close to who I am.

Church and Christian religion are usu-

ally themes in your films but not in "Good Deeds." Was that a conscious choice?

No, it wasn't. I'm going to speak in a multitude of voices in my career. The message is still just as powerful. The message is just about living your own life. This life is given to you, it's a gift from God and you have to live it to the fullest.

This is your first film categorized as a romantic drama. Any plans to try other genres of film?

Sci-fi. I love sci-fi with a passion but, on the budgets I'm given, it's pretty difficult to do. But I'll take a stab at it in the next couple of years.

Some critics have reacted negatively to your films and characters. How do you reconcile negative reviews from critics with positive reactions from your fans?

I don't think about critics at all, honestly. I learned very early on that critics are critics. They're people with opinion. If you can't



Tyler Perry's Good Deeds

PG-13

What's it about? A wealthy businessman (Tyler Perry) is shamed into paying more attention to the 99 percent, represented by his cleaning lady, Thandie Newton.

Why didn't Lionsgate screen it for critics? We asked for comment but received none. Perry hasn't screened his films for critics in the past. His fans are like fans of Adam Sandler; they show up regardless.

Why we'd see it: His non-Madea films are generally better than the films in which he's in drag.

Why we wouldn't: The trailer doesn't convince us Perry is leading man material.

DAVID FRESE, THE KANSAS CITY STAR

relate to it, I don't think you should speak to it. I've learned to just stay on purpose. I look for truth [in criticism]. If it's vitriolic, I have no interest in reading it; but if it's something that challenges me to grow, I'm open to it. I've had some very harsh critics but there have been five or six times where I've heard something and I've said, "That, I'll take."



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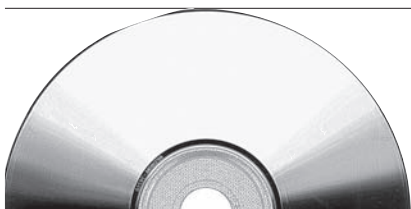
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NEW ON DVD

By Rick Bentley and Rich Heldenfels | MCT

This week's offerings on DVD and Blu-ray include a cool cat, a religious pilgrimage, a portrait of a lawman and a goofy caper.



Martha Marcy May Marlene

R
Elizabeth Olsen turns in a powerful performance as a woman who escapes a



cult only to return to a world that, in its own way, is just as controlling and scary. Director T. Sean Durkin magnifies the emotional conflict through a film stripped of all trappings from credits to music. He just lets raw emotions carry the scenes.

Blu-ray extras: "Mary Last Seen," the short film Durkin wrote and directed prior to the full feature, plus featurettes on the making of the film, the filmmakers' view on cults, and John Hawke's cover of "Marcy's Song."



J. Edgar

R
The Clint Eastwood-directed film about the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover is often sluggish and fragmentary as it tries to cover the long life of a man who spent most of it in his tight little office. Still,



Leonardo DiCaprio as Hoover gives a fine performance, as does Armie Hammer as Hoover's longtime aide, Clyde Tolson.

Extras: Limited extras include a featurette exploring more about Hoover.

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The Way, Way Back

PG-13
Written and directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen, "The Way" is about a man who decides



to complete the Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James, a religious trek started by his now-deceased son. While the movie has some clunky spots, Sheen is very good and, as I said when it was in theaters, "The Way" has a firm understanding of human frailty, and of what people need to get through the pain that life too often bestows on them.

Extras: Commentary by Sheen and Estevez, plus a making-of feature and one on their cross-country tour with the film.



Tower Heist

PG-13
Ben Stiller plays the manager of a high-end condo building whose tenants include a wheel-



dealer played by Alan Alda. But Alda turns out to have swindled his clients, who include the people working in his building; when he won't repay their losses, Stiller and associates decide the only path to restitution is an elaborate burglary. Directed by Brett Ratner, "Tower Heist" is nothing more than mild entertainment with scattered laughs and a couple of surprises. But it works all right by that standard, especially if you want something to decompress with after a stress-laden week. Still, I kept feeling that the movie should have been funnier or more clever.

Extras: Two alternate endings, deleted scenes, bloopers, a making-of piece and an audio commentary by Ratner, the film's editor and two of the writers.



Puss in Boots

PG
An Oscar nominee for best animated feature, the movie has its high points, notably a dance battle between two characters. But as I said after seeing the 3-D version in a theater, when it has to serve the plot, the movie begins to drag. The



film arrives in several packages: standard DVD, Blu-ray/DVD/digital combo and a set including all the other versions plus the Blu-ray 3-D.

Blu-ray extras: A new animated short, "Puss in Boots: The Three Diablos," picking up where the movie left off, and others.



ON SALE

* = Matt Pais' recommended shows

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ALCOHOLIC FAITH MISSION,
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* **FIONA APPLE,**
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CODEINE, SUNDAY,
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THE DONKEYS,
Sunday, May 27 (\$10-
\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

* **ELEANOR
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HOSPITALITY,**
Tuesday, May 1 (\$13,
21+) at Schubas.
RJD2, Young General,
Wednesday, April 18
(\$15, 18+) at Lincoln
Hall.

PATRICK WATSON,

Friday, June 1 (\$15-\$18,
21+) at Lincoln Hall.

5 P.M. FRIDAY

* **ELEANOR
FRIEDBERGER,**
Wednesday, May 2
(\$12-\$22, all ages) at
Space.

* **PRESERVATION
HALL JAZZ BAND,**
Tuesday, April 10 (\$26-
\$46, all ages) at Space.

* **THE YARDBIRDS,**
Thursday, April 19
(\$28-\$52, all ages) at
Space.

10 A.M. SATURDAY

ALO, Friday, May
25 (\$18-\$20, 21+) at
Martyrs'.

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\$40, all ages) at
Marcus Amphitheater.

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SHARON JONES,**
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Auditorium Theatre.

**BOB SCHNEIDER,
LAURA WARSHAUER,**
Friday, May 4 (\$20, 21+)
at Double Door.

11 A.M. SATURDAY

**BONNIE RAITT,
MARC COHN,**
Sunday, May 20
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at Chicago Theatre.

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**BRAND NUBIAN,
PROJECT MAYHEM,**
Friday, April 6 (\$20,
21+) at Double Door.

**GROUPLOVE,
REPTAR,**
Saturday, May 12 (\$16,
all ages) at Metro.

**NICOLAS JAAR,
VALENTIN STIP,**
Saturday, March 24
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**MARK LANEGAN
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WHEELER
AND ZANDER
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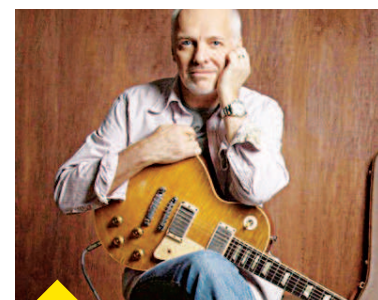
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music



Moby



Skrillex

Spring festival brings the beats

By Jessica Galliard

REDEYE'S SOUND BOARD

Skrillex, Afrojack and Moby are among the headliners for the Spring Awakening Festival, a new electronic dance music fest at Soldier Field to kick off the summer from June 16-17, as announced Thursday via a Groupon deal.

The @SpringAwakeFest official Twitter account tweeted a link to the deal just before midnight: \$74 for a \$114 (includes fees) two-day festival pass. By midday Thursday, the deal was sold out with more than 240 tickets purchased.

Sound familiar? The second annual North Coast Music Festival in September also used a limited Groupon deal last summer to sell early bird passes and release bits of its anticipated electronic music lineup. Looks like the summer will now be bookended by EDM fests.

Is that a good or bad thing? We need to let it marinate first.

Live Music Blog stumbled across a half-finished website for the rumored festival earlier this month, as well as a Twitter account and Facebook page, before any announcements had been made about

the possible new fest. Though the ticket prices listed on the mysterious page were a bit off (\$90 instead of \$114), pretty much everything else was spot-on with Thursday's announcement.

Tickets are \$99 for a two-day pass and \$199 for VIP access and are on sale at springawakeningfestival.com/tickets.

Here's the full lineup: Skrillex, Afrojack, Moby, Flux Pavilion, Laidback Luke, Wolfgang Gartner, Diplo, A-Track, Ferry Corsten, Markus Schulz, Arty, Claude VonStroke, Derrick Carter, Dillon Francis, Deconstructo, Downlink, Felix Cartal, Gabriel & Dresden, Green Velvet, Hardwell, Joachim Garraud, Kill The Noise, Lance Herbstrong, Midnight Conspiracy, Morgan Page, Nathan Scott, NERVO, Nobody Beats The Drums

This is heaven for EDM nerds. Ticket prices are decent, the lineup is enticing and Skrillex—the artist most likely to draw distant fans—loves him some Chicago. (He's sold out at The Mid and was a favorite at the Perry's Stage at Lollapalooza.) But Soldier Field? Football bros who love EDM are going to lose their damn minds.

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Sweet spot

Former 'Top Chef' contestant puts her own spin on Italian desserts at Balena

By Lisa Arnett | REDEYE

Though pastry chef Amanda Rockman may be known locally for her addictive Basque cake at Bucktown restaurant The Bristol, she took a turn in the national spotlight last year on Bravo's "Top Chef: Just Desserts." While she was away taping the show, she found out that The Bristol bunch was teaming up with Boka Restaurant Group for a new restaurant called **Balena** (1633 N. Halsted St. 312-867-3888), which is expected to open in early March in the old Landmark space in Lincoln Park.

The Italian-inspired restaurant will showcase chef Chris Pandel's pasta, pizza and wood-fired meats, but it looks like it will take multiple visits just to sample Rockman's seriously big dessert menu. As of press time, it featured four plated desserts and six sundaes. "In Chicago there's not really a restaurant that has really good composed sundaes," she said. "You can argue Margie's, but that's a little more Americana, where ours is going to be definitely focused on Italian gelatos and sorbettis."

Fresh off a Jean Banchet Award for Pastry Chef of the Year, Rockman gave us the lowdown on four of her desserts, which you can watch her prepare in a video at redeyechicago.com/balena.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF KAUCK



AFFOGATO & DOUGHNUTS

Rockman takes affogato, a simple Italian dessert created by pouring espresso over vanilla gelato, and spins it into something more American by adding fried-to-order yeasted doughnuts dusted with cinnamon sugar. "I like to call this the cops' special because it's coffee and doughnuts. America runs on Dunkin', right?" It's up to the diner how exactly to dig into the doughnuts. "You can kind of dip it into the affogato, you can eat it separately, you can mash it in there," she said. "My personal favorite is to kind of let the hot espresso melt away a little of the vanilla gelato and then to dip my doughnut in there."

PINE NUT TART

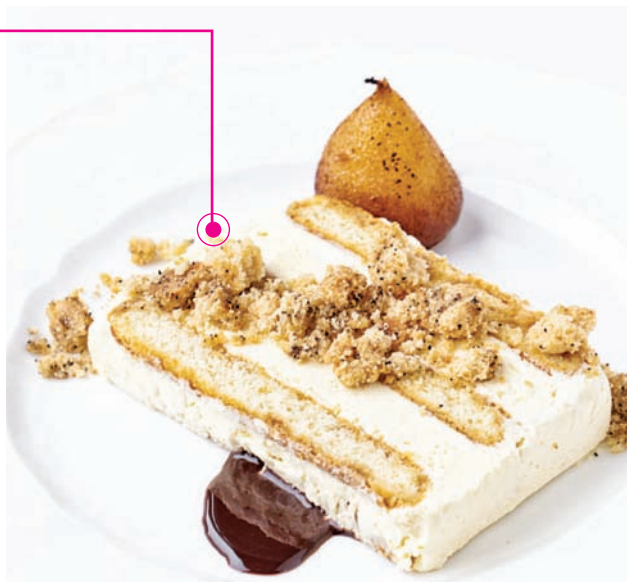
Rockman loves tarts and confesses that she's dreamed of opening a shop (called Queen of Tarts, of course) that serves nothing but tarts. "There's something to be said about a really beautiful hand-crafted tart shell, which we're making all in house," she said, adding that she prefers individually-sized tart shells over larger cake-sized pastries that you cut into slices. "It's just a little more special than just a floppy piece of tart, sliced away." Inside, there's a filling of honey caramel and pine nuts, and it's served with a vanilla custard sauce, vanilla gelato and fried rosemary. "The earthiness of the rosemary really brings out the honey and the pine nut flavor."

TIRAMISU

"What's really great about Balena is that it's Italian-inspired, key word 'inspired.'" Rockman said. "We're not trying to transport you back to Italy." So when it came to creating her own version of tiramisu, a classic Italian dessert made from espresso-soaked ladyfingers layered with mascarpone cream, she wanted to take some liberties. Three layers of ladyfingers (aged as opposed to fresh so they can hold up to the soaking) with a mixture of zabaione (marsala wine-spiked custard), whipped cream and mascarpone cheese in between are frozen in big loaf pans before being cut into thin slices.

"I'm really hoping that this dessert is kind of like the crown jewel. I really would like it to rival the Basque cake [at The Bristol],"

she said. "I would like to show another dessert that's just as addictive as that." Each slice is plated with a creme fraiche-chocolate sauce, coffee-almond streusel and the cutest little pear you've ever seen, which Rockman roasts with sugar and coffee grounds to add a fresh, slightly bitter flavor to a seriously rich dish.



PISTACHIO SUNDAE

This "grown-up sundae" was the first dessert Rockman dreamed up for Balena while she was filming "Top Chef: Just Desserts." "I was sequestered, 'cause at that point I had been booted, so I had some extra time ... and that's when the idea for the sundae kind of popped into my head." Pistachio is a common flavor in traditional Italian pastry, so Rockman takes scoops of house-made pistachio gelato and tops them with pistachio nougat (also a traditional Italian confection), orange caramel and orange confit, which are slices of oranges cooked in sugar syrup. This sundae will be in good company with others, including a lemon sorbetti with lemon curd, lemon meringue and a basil sugar cookie as well as a vanilla sundae that's like "an open ice-cream sandwich with chocolate-chip cookie, malt fudge and toasted milk."



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2012 REDEYE BEST BARTENDER

JENNY KESSLER

By Emily Van Zandt | REDEYE

Haven't heard of Masa Azul yet? You will.

The little Southwestern restaurant tucked away on a quiet stretch of Diversey Avenue in Logan Square has been open only a few months, but it's already racking up bragging rights: Jenny Kessler, who designed the drink list and tends bar there, is RedEye's 2012 Best Bartender.

Kessler was named the winner at Wednesday's Best Bartender competition at Moe's Cantina River North after earning the majority vote from a combination of judges' scores as well as online and text votes from the audience and RedEye readers.

"I was really surprised," Kessler said. "I felt like we were the smallest business competing and we're only 5 months old ... so those things were going against us."

Kessler's family and co-workers

“ I was really surprised. I felt like we were the smallest business competing and we're only 5 months old.”

—Jenny Kessler, RedEye's 2012 best bartender

took to the Internet to campaign for votes, sending emails, tweets and posts as often as they could.

"I have a huge family and my mom headed up putting the word out and sending email blasts," she says. "A lot of industry friends have come out to support me."

With the win under her belt, Kessler will continue to serve up her take on classic cocktails with a major focus on small-batch mezcals and tequilas. Look for the drink menu at Masa Azul to change in the next month or two with the addition of more stirred cocktails.

One thing Kessler won't be doing

again soon is making cocktails samples for hundreds of party attendees. Wednesday's contest put her skills to the test.

"I got there early to mandolin a case of limes," said Kessler, who estimates she served between 400 and 450 drink samples through the night. "I had a five-ingredient cocktail and it was really fun to challenge myself and see how many drinks I could get out there."

Want to check out her drinks for yourself? Stop by Masa Azul from 5-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays or from 5-10 p.m. Sundays. And tell 'em RedEye sent you.

EVANZANDT@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDRINKS



Bartender Jenny Kessler
at Masa Azul
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

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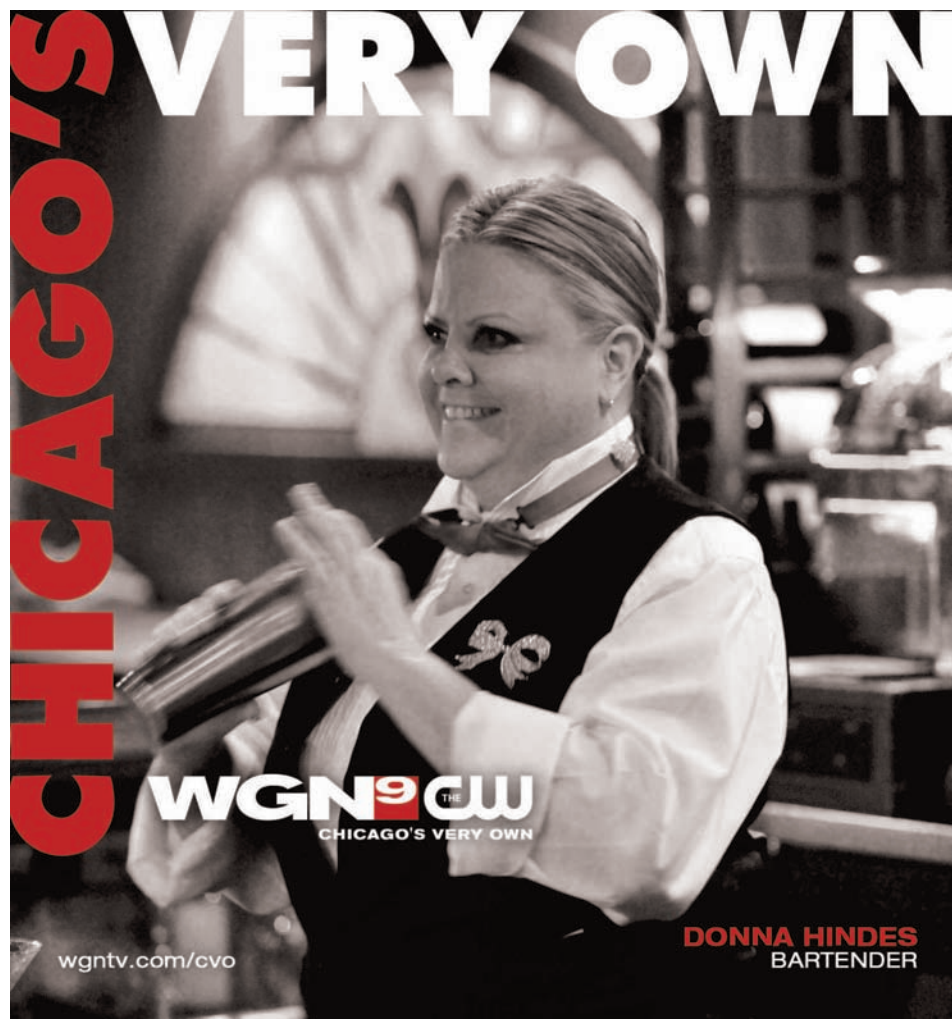
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LENNY GILMORE PHOTOS/REDEYE



Becky Bivens
26, Ukrainian Village

(1) My brooch that my grandmother gave me. **(2)** Classic but edgy. **(3)** Piet Mondrian paintings.



Charlie Shields
24, Logan Square

(1) My vintage jacket. **(2)** Basic with one thing that pops. **(3)** Colors.



Andrea Pusillo
29, Noble Square

(1) My purse from Lenny & Me. **(2)** Anything under \$10. **(3)** Color.



Jose Arauz
29, Pilsen

(1) My vintage bag. **(2)** Eclectic and male/female. **(3)** The seasons.



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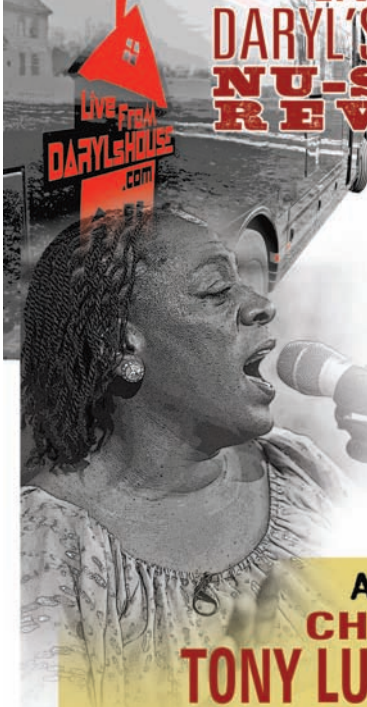
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Chicago Tribune

games

More hits than misses

By Ryan Smith | FOR REDEYE

Overcompensation isn't always a bad thing, at least not for the new PlayStation Vita.

I got the feeling playing the portable gaming system that Sony is desperately trying to make us forget that we live in an "Angry Birds" world where portable gaming is now ruled by cheap apps and games designed for smartphones or tablets. The Vita is stuffed so full of gee-whiz features, it's like the physical manifestation of Sony throwing down the gauntlet and saying, "Oh yeah, you think making a bulky, gaming-heavy handheld system is a bad idea? Well, take this!"

When listing all of the Vita's many charms, the vivid screen comes to mind first. The system boasts a 5-inch OLED touchscreen capable of displaying 16 million colors and vibrant images on par with the best screens that smartphones such as Apple's iPhone 4S have to offer. A similarly sized touch panel is located on the back of the device.

Vita also comes with front and back-mounted cameras, a built-in microphone and speakers, a six-axis motion sensor for tilt and steering functions and a built-in GPS—which Sony says will be used in games and social functions like leaderboards that are localized based on who is physically near your location.

Software-wise, Vita has a lot in common with an iPod Touch in that you can use it as a Web browser, music player and a place to download a bunch of apps—including Netflix, Facebook, Twitter and Skype. The Vita syncs with your PlayStation Network account so you can create parties, and talk and play with your friends. If that isn't enough,



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the Vita also has a "cross-play" function, a service in which you can connect Vitas and PlayStation 3s and play each other through a Wi-Fi connection.

Even though it comes with more bling than a luxury car, not all is perfect in Vita land. The battery life, at three to five hours, is nowhere near as good as the PSP's. Load times seem excessively long as well.

The most important question, of course,

is: Are any of the games good? The answer is yes. Well, kind of. The launch lineup is full of portable versions of PS3 faves such as "Uncharted," "Mod Nation Racers" and "Wipe-out" with small Vita touches. It's also worth noting that the Vita's graphics are undeniably great to look at.

On the other hand, none of the games feel completely essential yet.

Sony has delivered a versatile portable, but the jury is still out on whether gamers will want to pony up the cash for a Vita when they can play decent games for pennies on phones and iPads. Hard-core gamers on the go will probably jump in headfirst, but the rest of us might wait to see if Sony drops the price. **RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

GAMES TO TRY

SEVERAL GAMES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEW VITA. HERE'S WHAT TO PLAY, OR AVOID. R.S.

3 TO PLAY



TOUCH MY KATAMARI

This oddball series about a galactic prince who rolls an increasingly large ball of trash around feels right at home on the Vita.



LUMINES: ELECTRONIC SYMPHONY

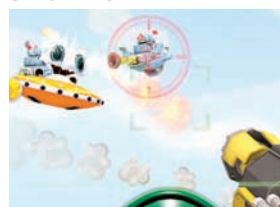
Best described as "Tetris" on acid, Lumines is a trippy, block-based puzzle game with an electronica soundtrack.



UNCHARTED: GOLDEN ABYSS

It's hard to believe Naughty Dog managed to pack an entire Nathan Drake adventure onto a tiny Vita card.

3 TO AVOID



LITTLE DEVIANTS

Feels more like a tech demo showing off the Vita's features than a real game.



MICHAEL JACKSON: THE EXPERIENCE

"Beat It" is a great MJ song and also what you'll want to do with this



DUNGEON HUNTERS: ALLIANCE

This game is so crusty, it had to have been unearthed from a dungeon.

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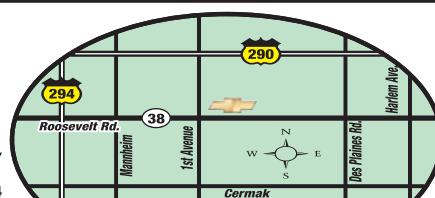
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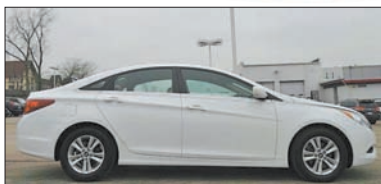


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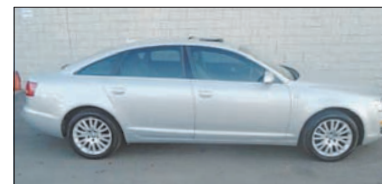
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30K Miles! Auto, Leather, Back Up Camera, CD, Sync & More!
(M360A) **\$25,980 866-411-9912**



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NISSAN 2010 VERSA S
Only 17K Miles! All Power, CD, & More! (M1013A)
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LANDROVER 2008 RANGEROVER SPORT
SUPERCHARGED 4X4, Only 22K Miles! Navigation! (P1044)
\$41,995 888-641-7122



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BMW 2006 Z4 M ROADSTER
Only 27K Miles! 27K Miles! 27K Miles! Leather Loaded!
(P1058) **\$26,995 888-641-7122**



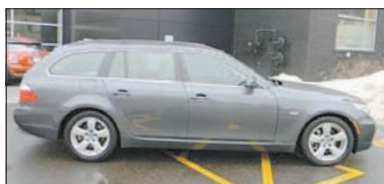
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MERCEDES 2002 SLK320
Only 45K Miles! Loaded! One Owner! (M1451A)
\$12,995 888-641-7122



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MAZDA 2008 MAZDA6
Low Low Miles! Auto, Heated Leather, Moonroof, Alloys, CD,
& More! (M1532A) **\$12,995 888-641-7122**



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BMW 2008 535xiT AWD
Only 35K Miles! Premium Package, Navigation, Xenons,
Power & Heated Leather! (P1048) **\$31,995 888-641-7122**



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GMC 2007 ACADIA AWD
45K Miles! Navigation, Heated Leather, Moonroof,
Power, & More! (M1484A) **\$25,995 888-641-7122**



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BMW 1999 Z3
Only 72K Miles! Flawless! Leather Loaded! (P1051A)
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Only 34K Miles! (P1054A)
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VW 2009 JETTA 2.5 WAGON
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Only 1900 Miles! Loaded! (OV1583A)
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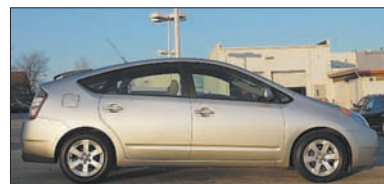
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INFINITI 2011 G35X
9K Miles! Back Up Camera, Auto, Heated Leather, Moonroof, &
More! (OV1519A) **\$SCAN FOR PRICE 877-571-4269**



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of our inventory

BMW 2010 X6 HYBRID AWD
9K Miles! Every Option! Rare Find! Scan For Details! (N6223)
\$59,955 877-571-4269



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TOYOTA 2005 PRIUS HYBRID
Low Miles! A Gas Saver! Sporty Look! Won't Last! (110935C)
\$12,835 866-654-2841



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of our inventory

HONDA 2001 CRV LX
All The Power Options! One Owner! Well Kept! A Best Buy!
(A126630A)(file photo) **\$4,995 847-481-0532**



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of our inventory

VW 2002 JETTA GL
Only 83K Miles! Auto, Fully Loaded! A Must See & Drive!
(A12655A)(file photo) **\$5,995 847-481-0532**



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of our inventory

HONDA 2003 ODYSSEY EX 4DR
Full Power, Rear A/C, Dual Power Doors, Quads!
Nice Family Ride! (H4685B) **\$8,995 888-223-1850**



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of our inventory

ACURA 2005 RL SH AWD
Only 54K Miles! Navigation! All Wheel Drive! (M344B)
\$19,500 866-411-9912

whoville AWARD-WINNING STYLE?



By Dana Moran | REDEYE

What's the second-most important thing about Oscar night? The gowns, of course! While we rub our hands together in anticipation of snarky commentary, check out what these four lovely nominees might have in store for us, based on their recent red-carpet attire. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA

BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES

Viola Davis

1 *Golden Globe awards*
Gorgeous soft, flowy skirt, beautiful, rich wine color and just a pop of HELLO leg. Rocked like a true winner.

2 *NAACP awards*
This orange is just fantastic, but there's no way we'd be able to pay attention to her acting if she jerry-rigged her chest like that all the time.

Rooney Mara

3 *Golden Globe awards*
We get that Lisbeth Salander is grungy and punky and whatnot, but we'd really, really love to see Rooney in some more color this awards season. This gown also seems a bit heavy for her bird-like frame.

4 *"Girl With The Dragon Tattoo," Japan premiere*
Fun with texture! Rooney looks like she's straight off the runway. With all the flowiness going on, we don't know where to look—in a good way.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS NOMINEES

Octavia Spencer

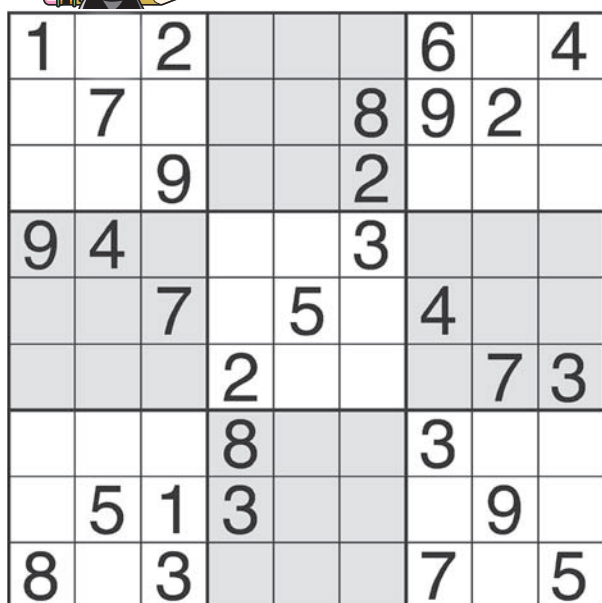
5 *Screen Actors Guild awards*
Gorgeous. Classy. Glowing. For once in our lives, we have no criticisms. Do this Sunday and you're golden, girl.

6 *NAACP awards*
Octavia wore an extremely similar cut to the Golden Globes, but we prefer the mega-flattering, you-can't-ignore-me hue of this one. Not seen here: she fell ass-over-teakettle backstage.

Jessica Chastain

7 *Screen Actors Guild awards*
Oh, we see Gwyneth Paltrow left you something behind from 1998. (Although that Oscars dress was way, way more of a nightmare in the chestal region.) Excite us, lady!

8 *Golden Globe awards*
You know how your toothpaste tube gets kinda squishy when it's been squeezed too much? That's what this frock is doing to Jessica—and she's not a lumpy lady!



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

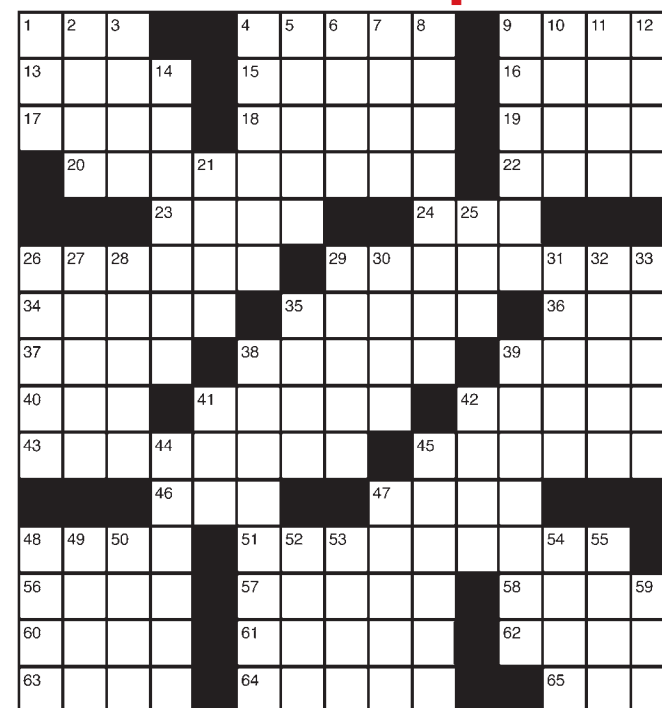


ACROSS

- 1 Tiny
- 4 Dull pains
- 9 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
- 13 Curve one's back
- 15 Sandbar
- 16 Not taped
- 17 Critical; urgent
- 18 Handbag
- 19 British thermal __; BTU
- 20 Reach the highest point
- 22 Ferrer and Ott
- 23 __ of interest; indifference
- 24 Safety __; diaper fastener
- 26 Plant pests
- 29 Opposite of general
- 34 Bring about
- 35 In what place?
- 36 Lofty poem
- 37 Fanny
- 38 Footwear
- 39 Cut of pork
- 40 Forest animal
- 41 Seat at a bar
- 42 Aviator
- 43 Dawn
- 45 Phantoms
- 46 Poe's initials
- 47 __ in the neck; difficult person
- 48 Voting alliance
- 51 Unable to put up a defense
- 56 Flat bean
- 57 Like vine-covered walls
- 58 Location
- 60 Actor Sandler
- 61 Gall
- 62 Murdered
- 63 Drill a hole
- 64 Inexperienced
- 65 Have bills

DOWN

- 1 Roll of money
- 2 Journalist Severeid
- 3 Neutral wall color
- 4 Clear jellies made from fish or meat stock
- 5 Piece of pineapple



- 6 Bar mitzvah dance
- 7 Vane direction
- 8 Slumberers
- 9 Graduates
- 10 Excavation
- 11 Malicious
- 12 Butterfly catchers' needs
- 14 Horrible
- 21 Created
- 25 __ skating; Olympic event
- 26 __ up; misbehaved
- 27 Zahn or Abdul
- 28 Sled dog
- 29 __ up; rattled
- 30 Orange rind
- 31 April __ Day
- 32 Dope
- 33 Small coins
- 35 Word to stop a horse
- 38 __ down; resigning
- 39 Elsa of "Born Free"
- 41 Mrs. in Madrid
- 42 TV's Dr. __
- 44 Turned into
- 45 Flower bed
- 47 Irritate
- 48 Spill the beans
- 49 Venetian beach resort
- 50 Actor Sharif
- 52 Do __; repeat
- 53 Metal thread
- 54 Storage tower
- 55 One-dish meal
- 59 Lamb's mother

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1981: Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.
1988: In a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court overturned a \$200,000 award the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against Hustler magazine and publisher Larry Flynt.
2004: President George W. Bush urged approval of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.

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HOT DATES

June 16-17

That's when the Spring Awakening Festival, a new electronic dance music fest, will hit Soldier Field. Skrillex, Afrojack and Moby are among the scheduled performers. Turn to **Page 34** for more details.

Looks like Zac Efron was looking to get lucky. A video circulating Thursday appears to show the 24-year-old—who lends his voice to the Dr. Seuss film “The Lorax”—dropping a shiny, square gold wrapper out of his pocket on the red carpet at the movie’s premiere. Judging by his embarrassed reaction, the speculation is that it was a condom. Well, at least he’s being careful ...

“I WANT MY BOOBS WHERE THEY WERE WHEN I WAS 17.”

—Octavia Spencer, to Parade magazine, on how she’s going to gift herself a breast lift as a reward for her success in “The Help”

For her next trick ...

Does J.K. Rowling have any more Harry Potter adventures up her sleeve? It’s unclear, but The Wall Street Journal reports that the author has a deal with her publisher to write an adult novel. Fans rejoice as trees everywhere cringe.

Rumor roundup

If you’re wondering who’ll be the next celeb judges on “The X Factor,” usmagazine.com reports an unnamed “source” throwing names including **Britney Spears**, Janet Jackson and Fergie into the mix. We love juicy, unconfirmed gossip!

WELL PROTECTED

Lin-bow-mania?

Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin couple status: admiring. “They’ve spoken over the telephone. Jeremy’s been a fan of Tebow’s for a while, but only recently were they able to connect,” Lin’s former chaplain at Harvard, Adrian Tam, told people.com. Isn’t the mutual admiration of two young stars sweet?

Zac Efron
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

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